THE OHIO MEDICAL REPOSITORY.

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"SPECTEMUR AGENDO."

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Observations on the Medical Topography and Diseases of the Western District of Tennessee. By W. W. Bosar.

"——————— Study well the *clime;*
Mould to its manners our obsequious frame,
And mitigate those ills we cannot shun."

The importance of Medical Topography, and its intimate connexion with disease, particularly with fever, will offer a sufficient apology for my again appearing in the *Repository*.

Perhaps, I may not throw as much light upon the subject as I could wish, yet, I hope it will at least, have the effect, of eliciting inquiry into the nature and cause of our diseases.

Medical Topography, as connected with diseases, has been but little attended to by the physicians of this state. The condition of the atmosphere, swamps, minerals, vegetable and animal productions, &c. are all acknowledged to have so great an influence on the health of individuals, & I am astonished that this subject has been so much neglected in this vicinity.

Nature has divided the state of Tennesse into three grand divisions: East, Middle and West.—East and Middle Tennessee, are divided by the Cumberland Mountain; Middle and West, by the Tennessee River.

It lies between 35 and 36 degrees of North latitude, and is agreeably diversified with hills and valleys. No part of the country, is more than twenty miles, from some navigable stream, all of which empty themselves either into the Mississippi or Tennessee. There are extensive swamps and internal ponds scattered over every part of the country, besides an annual inundation of many of the bottoms, lying upon the various streams. These floods sometimes occur as late as May, and retire in the course of two or three weeks, leaving its depositions upon the surface of a great extent of country, to be acted on by the hot sun of June. The soil is also various, consisting mostly of a rich silicious earth, occasionally intermixed with the aluminous. The water, of course, is pure and cool. Mineral springs are frequently met with, mostly of the sulphurous kind; and are considered virtually medicinal in a variety of complaints, such as tinea, herpes, psora, and most of the cutaneous eruptions, as well as in disorders of the digestive organs. The minerals found in this state are, pit-coal and petroleum, together with large quantities of lead and iron ore; white clay is found at some distance below the surface; also marine shells, petrifactions, sandstone, &c.

The vegetables are of a colossal growth, and consist of an endless variety, such as are ordinarily found in the same degree of latitude. The barrens are, every summer, covered with a luxuriant growth of grass.

The winter of 1823 was, as customary, attended with sudden vicissitudes of heat and cold, the season throughout was unusually rainy, and the only snow we had, fell on the 24th of December. During the above time, the thermometer ranged between 25 and 30 degrees; from the first of March until the last of September, from 30 to 89 degrees. The character of the prevailing diseases that winter and spring, was Pneumonia, accompanied, frequently, with functional and structural derangement of the liver, and sometimes with a low grade of bilious fever.

Fevers prevailed, during the summer and fall, to a considerable extent; mostly intermittents. The remittents were of a highly bilious nature, attended with an obstinate constipation of the bowels. When neglected in the first stages, as they frequently were, in eight or ten days they assumed the character of a well marked typhus, with subsultus tendinum, quick small pulse, and coma; these symptoms generally pourtrayed approaching dissolution. The abstraction of a large quantity of blood, unless taken during the first or second day of the disease, uniformly induced the above mentioned symptoms, and even when taken early, my observation led me to believe, it was attended with bad effects, in somuch as it protracted the disease, and accelerated the typhus stage.

The practice, which, in my hands, proved almost uniformly successful, consisted in bark, and frequently repeated purgatives, of calomel and jalap, gentle diaphoretics, and the cold bath.

This last article proved a powerful remedy when administered early in the disease, and under the precautions pointed out by Dr. Currie.

On the accession of the typhus symptoms, finding every practice alike unsuccessful, I was induced to try Fowler's solution, and the effect was truly wonderful. I gave it in doses of 15 drops, three times a day, increasing it, two drops every 24 hours; this, with blistering, and sponging with vinegar, in three or four days, snatched the patient from the arms of death, and placed him on the convalescent list; when bark and wine, with an occasional purgative of calomel and jalap, which is altogether important, completed the cure. I did not find it necessary to continue the solution, for a longer time than three or four days, but in obstinate intermittents, in less quantities, for nine or ten days, without observing any of the bad consequences commonly represented.

The winter of 1824 was comparatively mild, and with less rain than the preceding winter. March and April were unusually rainy, and the Tennessee river rose higher, than ever before known. A considerable part of the little village of Perryville, which is 15 feet above the level of the river, was inundated, in some places, to the depth of 10 or 15 feet. Those who lived on the banks retreated to the hills, and remained in tents until the water fell. Diseases, notwithstanding the great flood of water so late in the season, were much more simple and manageable than in the preceding year.

One bleeding, with an emetic or cathartic, &c. when judiciously used, were mostly competent to the cure. They were generally intermittents, and well marked remittents. The only peculiarity in them was a great determination to the stomach, though not sufficiently common, to be given as a general character. I saw some cases where the patients, in their own wisdom, had taken emetics, and never ceased vomiting until a few hours previous to their death. *This is by no means uncommon in fevers of the Western District.*

The winter of 1825 was mild; the temperature was lower than 25 deg.; vegetation commenced early; the spring, summer and fall were uncommonly dry and warm. From the first of July to the last of September, rain enough did not fall to lay the dust. Streams were evaporated, crops cut short, and many delicate vegetables eventually destroyed, in consequence of the great drought. The greatest heat was 99 deg., which, during the month of September, continued for several days in succession. The medium temperature of the summer months was 76 2-3 degrees.

On the first of August many were attacked with an ephemeral fever which, for a day or two, excited great alarm among our citizens. This fever commenced with severe pain in the head, back and limbs, flushed cheeks, red and protuberant eyes, dry skin, white and dry tongue, pulse preternaturally slow, but tense.

The skin, in some of the slight cases, was moist, even from the beginning. This fever consisted of but one paroxysm; which was, generally, ushered in by a slight chill, or sense of cold in the extremities and back, and uniformly terminated, in 24 hours, in a general diaphoresis. No other disease of importance prevailed that year, except ophthalmia, which was prevalent in August and September. It was rarely obstinate. The summer and fall were unusually fatal to our horses, cows and hogs. Horses had a disease of the feet, and, in consequence, frequently lost their hoofs. The effect was the same with those that were stabled, and those that ran at large. A disease, called the *glanders*, took off many of our best horses. Cows and hogs had a disease of the nose, which proved very troublesome, and often fatal.

I now come to the year 1826—a year of more disease and fatality, than any before experienced, since the settlement of the country.

The winter of this year was so extremely mild, that it did not entirely check vegetation. Lettuce, onions, cabbage and turnips continued green through the year, so that, by the first of April, we had a supply of peas, beets, radishes, &c., and many peach trees and dogwood (cornus florida) were seen in bloom.

We had less rain than the previous season. About the 6th of April the weather became suddenly cold; wind from the N. W., with heavy frosts, which continued for several nights. As vegetation had so far advanced, all the delicate plants were entirely destroyed. The fate was the same, with many of the more hardy ones. The prospect, before so cheering and beautiful, was now completely reversed.

The atmosphere, as might have been expected, was very humid. The thermometer did not show a temperature higher than 89 deg. The evenings and mornings were so cool as to require fires. In the month of August, the low grounds were completely inundated.

I come now to some remarks on the *first* formidable disease with which, we were this year visited—the Epidemic Catarrh, or Influenza.

This complaint made its appearance about the 12th of March, and continued until the 13th of April, after which time, it gradually disappeared. It proved most fatal to those of middle age; negroes suffered more from it than whites. I do not recollect an instance of a young child being affected. Some were so mildly attacked, as to be able to attend to their ordinary business: but this number were comparatively few; most patients were confined to their beds, even on the first day of the attack. Many cases were of a typhoid type. Convalescence was tedious, especially in those who were predisposed to pulmonary affections. If the patient had previously been subject to diseased liver, this organ was more particularly affected; the same with the pleura, lungs, &c. In every case which came under my observation, the liver was more or less implicated.

The bowels were generally torpid, especially in the commencement: delirium of the low muttering kind was not unusual: the nerves were often much affected; the urine was scanty, high-colored, of a strong smell, and without any deposition, even after convalescence had commenced; the skin dry, and a little below the healthy standard of heat; the tongue was uniformly dry, and, for two or three of the first days, was covered with a white fur—after that it became brown; the pulse was usually slow, and in many cases almost imperceptible; there was great oppression about the chest; the features were acute, with a languid eye and a circumscribed redness upon the cheek. In some, peripneumony notha was induced, which was soon followed by effu-

sion into the bronchial cells, and consequently death. Though in most cases the breast was the first complained of, yet in many instances the bowels appeared chiefly to be affected, with great soreness and colicy pains; these were generally relieved in a few days, either by the occurrence of natural or artificially produced, biliary discharges.

The chills were frequently repeated, in the form of regular paroxysms. Pain was seated in the back part of the head. There was a pain uniformly felt in the centre of the sternum, frequently accompanied with one in the left side, about the third rib: these pains often continued eight or ten days after the patient was, in every other respect, well.

The cough was, at first, dry and short, but after a few days it became more frequent, and attended with a copious expectoration, which was always desirable, though even when kept up, did not, without other concurrent symptoms, prove critical.

About the middle of March, ophthalmia and measles prevailed among children;—they were not, however, of a serious nature.

Intermittents made their appearance at an earlier period than usual, but readily yielded to appropriate remedies. As the season advanced, they assumed more the character of remittents, with increased obstinacy: by the 15th of August it became quite alarming, not so much from the number attacked, as the malignancy of the disease.

This fever was introduced by a sense of aching in the bones, and chillness; sometimes amounting to a complete ague. In a few cases, the coldness could only be perceived in the fingers and toes.

The chills continued from fifteen minutes to two hours, and were succeeded by a severe and continued pain in the posterior part of the head and back: also frequent delirium, incessant thirst, quick and laborious breathing, and sometimes continual vomiting. These symptoms continued ten or twelve hours, and then gradually abated, when another chill would appear, with an exacerbation of all its symptoms: the second paroxysm generally terminated in a complete intermission. Thus it went on from day to day, with increasing debility and gastric irritability. Many cases were highly congestive.

An apology is due Dr. Bomar, for the liberty we have taken with the above essay. He will, however, recollect that our pages are exceedingly limited, this being the last number of the *Repository*, excepting one, which will be occupied with a title-page and index, consequently it could not be continued. We were therefore compelled either to discard it altogether, or publish it in part, as we have done. The subject is interesting, and the paper instructive, We flatter ourselves that Dr. B. will prosecute the investigation of so important a subject, and favor us occasionally with the results, when we shall have more room, and consequently more system. [Ed.

USE OF THE RED SULPHATE OF IRON.

M. Braconnot, of Nancy, has discovered that this salt, the p sulphate of iron, possesses an astringent and antiseptic property in the highest degree. It is very cheap, and combines, with the greatest facility, with all the humors and soft tissues of animals, and preserves them both from putrefaction and from insects. A brain, which had been plunged for three months in a solution of this salt, being placed in a warm place, required a considerable time to dry it, but without showing the least sign of putridity: placed afterwards in water, it was still preserved for some time, but did not recover its pristine softness. Portions of the liver, spleen, lungs, and muscle, placed in this mixture, have equally resisted destruction.

The preparation of this salt is very easy: it consists in calcining the green sulphate of iron till it acquires a red color.—*Archives Generales*, Juin.

Nitrous oxide gas is recommended in some cases of hypochondriasis.

CINCINNATI;
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1827.

The Proprietors' Address

TO THE PATRONS OF THE OHIO MEDICAL REPOSITORY.

ONE year has elapsed, since we commenced the publication of the *Repository*, without patrons.

We then considered the undertaking as an experiment, the results of which, were uncertain; tho' we were quite sanguine in our expectations, of ultimate success. Before three months of the year had expired, our predictions were measurably verified, by the receipt of a large number of subscribers.

We have promised, from the first, that, so soon as a sufficient number of patrons were obtained, we would enlarge and improve the work.

That period has arrived; and it is with extreme pleasure, we have it in our power now to state, that Daniel Drake, *late Professor of the Theory & Practice of Medicine, in Transylvania University*, has united himself with the former editor of the *Repository;* and will, in future, devote his talents to the new series, much enlarged—assuming a new shape, and in every relation, an increased importance. In consequence of this enlargement and new form, together with the great acquisition of talents to the editorial department, we have thought proper to alter the title, and have called it "The Western Medical and Physical Journal." This change, we presume, cannot be objectionable with any one, and, we presume, when it is considered that it has now, and probably will have a still greater circulation, through the Western country, the new name will be considered most suitable.

The *Repository* has, through the year, occupied one sheet, only, a month, for which we charged *Two Dollars*.

The *Western Medical and Physical Journal*, will require four sheets per month, besides its printed cover, for which *Four Dollars* a year will be exacted.

By this it will be seen, that the latter will cost less than the former, when the difference in the quantity of matter is taken into the account.

This fee of Four dollars must, however, be paid, without exception, in advance; for the work cannot be continued to those who do not comply strictly with these conditions.

We will forward the first number to all the subscribers of the *Repository*, unless we are previously informed of their declining its support. On the receipt of the first number, all who do not wish its continuance will give us immediate notice; those who do not give us this notice during the month, we will consider as patrons, and expect the subscription fee by an early mail.

We beg our friends and patrons to accept our grateful consideration, for their generous support to the *Repository*, and hope for its continuance to the *Western Medical and Physical Journal.*

We have endeavored to be useful and industrious in the management of our *little work;* how far we have succeeded, is for others to say; we, however, rely with confidence upon their favorable decision. In the *Repository* we were limited; now we shall have room—and will exert ourselves to occupy it, to the satisfaction of the Medical public.

To those gentlemen who have so kindly and liberally contributed to the pages of the *Repository*, we present our warmest thanks; and will confide in their talents and industry, for a like contribution to the new series.

To our Brethren, east of the mountains, who have, from the diminutive size of our work, unexpectedly patronised us, we now, with pleasure, present a Journal, more nearly approximating their own in size, and we hope in usefulness.

We will confidently rely upon their general support, and moreover claim it as a mutual right, guaranteed by the liberal feelings manifested in the long and extended circulation of their similar journals, west of the mountains.

We will now close by congratulating our readers on the acquisition of Professor Drake to the editorial department. His eminent talents and known industrious habits, cannot fail of rendering the Journal highly useful and acceptable to the physicians, and other literary men, of the west.

The *Western Medical and Physical Journal*, will be printed by N. & G. Guilford, Lower Market street, Cincinnati; to whom all orders for the work will be directed, and all subscriptions paid, as general agents for the work.

MORTALITY OF CINCINNATI FOR FEBRUARY.

Consumption, 5; bilious fever, 1; childbed fever, 1; inflammation of the liver, 2; inflammation of the bowels, 1; inflammation of the brain, 1; catarrh, 1; pleurisy, 2; croup, 1; old age, 1; taking opium, 1; still-born, 5; unknown, 6. Adults, 16; children, 12. Total 28.

The Ohio Medical College closed its session on the first day of this month. Sixteen young gentlemen received the honors of the institution; the names of which, together with the subjects of their several essays, will appear in the first number of the Western Medical and Physical Journal.

The names of the graduates, of this year, in Transylvania University, together with the subjects of their different essays, will appear in the first number of the *Western Medical and Physical Journal.*

The first number of the Western Medical and Physical Journal is now in press, and will appear in a few days.

COMMUNICATED FOR THE REPOSITORY.

Mr. ——— was admitted into the hospital about a year since, labouring under a chronic dysentery, which recently proved fatal. Upon a post mortem examination, evidence of excessive inflammation of the mucous membrane of the large intestines, as usual in this disease, was present. But what rendered the case singular was, *the almost entire want of the left lobe of the liver*, there being present merely an earlike appendage to the right lobe, somewhat less in size than one of the auricles of the heart. On laying it open with the scalpel, the internal part appeared like the remains of an abscess. The probability is, that an abscess formerly existed in the left lobe, and the matter was discharged through some of the hepatic ducts, and thence into the duodenum; as great adhesion existed between the side of the supposed abscess and these ducts. Hence we might account for the absence of the left lobe. C.

Particular cases in which the Caustic is useful.—In punctured wounds, it should be applied to the orifice and surrounding skin, and the eschar allowed to dry. The terrible effects of punctured wounds, are thus completely prevented, whether caused by needles, hooks, bayonets, &c. So also of wounds from saws; of bites from leeches and animals; of the stings of insects; and especially of those small scratches, and punctures, received in *anatomical dissection.* The danger of these last mentioned accidents may, according to Mr. H., be completely arrested by the prompt and free application of the lunar caustic. Even in neglected cases, when a small tumour has formed under the skin, attended with a smart stinging pain, he advises the tumour to be removed, and an adherent eschar to be formed by the caustic; and in still more neglected and advanced cases, where inflammation of the absorbents has supervened, "a free crucial incision is to be made, the caustic to be freely applied, and after

wards, the cold poultice and lotion; the usual constitutional remedies being actively enforced."

In *bruises*, especially of the skin, the adherent eschar from lunar caustic, has, with Mr. H., always effected a cure; and even when a slough has been produced, the application of the caustic will moderate the inflammation.

In *ulcers*, which are small, not exposed to friction or motion, and discharging little, the cure by eschar will be preferable; especially in those little irritable and painful ulcers often seen about the ancle and tendo Achillis. Apply first a cold poultice, and then form the eschar, which may be freely exposed to the air. Should the matter, nevertheless, collect, it should be evacuated by puncture as often as necessary, until the eschar remains adherent.

This practice is recommended by Mr. H., in various other affections; as in inflammation of the fingers; in the fungous ulcer of the navel in infants; in *tinea capitis*, &c. In this last case, we have ourselves used it with marked advantage. In all cases, the lunar caustic has a decided effect in *diminishing the irritability* of the parts to which it is applied; and hence, should usually be prefered for the purpose of forming a "*scab*," for such the eschar really is, in a practical view; and we think that our author has hardly done justice to nature's methodus medendi by "scabbing;" while he so ably and strenuously recommends his own immitation of her process. Scabs may be formed by the coagulation of blood; by the drying of mucous or pus; and by the formation of an eschar, by the actual or potential cautery.

The surgeon may frequently reduce parts to the same situation, by the use of gold-beater's skin, court-plaster, or other unirritating applications, which prevent exposure and evaporation. In all cases, care must be taken to prevent the surrounding inflammation from transcending the adhesive stage.—*Med. & Surg. Jour.*

On the healing of Wounds from Burns and Scalds, by the Scabbing process. By F. Rush, Esq. Surgeon.

The cicatrisation of surfaces extensively denuded of their natural covering, such as frequently occur from burns and scalds, is generally a subject of some embarrassment, when treated in the ordinary method, and, from the tardiness of the operation, is productive of much pain and inconvenience to the subjects of them. This is more particularly the case when such injuries are inflicted on the trunk: the healing of such sores on the extremetics is effected with less difficulty, as they can be placed under the influence of pressure, which cannot be so well employed to aid cures of this kind on the back, abdomen, chest, or neck. Indeed, I have seen the most severe and lengthened distress arise from such injuries; the rapid growth of soft flabby granulations proving not only difficult to restrain, but retarding the skinning process; the sore pouring out large quantities of pus, and affecting the general health, so as to induce hectic fever, and even fatal consequences. As the object of my paper is to call the attention to that stage of the injury which is secondary, I shall only advert to recent injuries of this sort, by offering my humble tribute of approval of the plan laid down by Dr. Kentish; but as, where violent heat has been applied, notwithstanding the use of the most approved remedies, sloughing of the skin will take place, I shall take up the subject just at that stage when the sore has put on a healthy granulating surface. Perhaps my plan of treatment will best admit of illustration by the recital of a few cases.

Case I.—About 7 years ago, a child of J. Burge was brought to me with a sore on the back, as large as a man's hand: it was situated just below the right scapula; the surface was uneven, and the granulations morbidly soft, throwing out much puss, and bleeding on the slightest touch. I learnt that it had arisen from a burn, and had been very much in its then present state for two years, notwithstanding it had been under the care of a most respectable surgeon for some time, and had been subsequently dressed by various healing ointments, used empirically on such occasions. I determined that nothing of an unctuous character should be used, but that the edges of the sore should be touched daily with the liq. plumbi, applied by a camel's hair brush; and that the whole surface should be sprinkled over with flour or chalk, so as to form an artificial scab. Some portion of the scab was daily broken down, the matter discharged, and more flour used to promote the formation of a new scab. During the cure the child wore a loose dress, like a petticoat tied round the neck, and every thing, but the application before stated, kept as much as possible from coming in contact with the sore: by these means, complete cicatrisation had taken place in a month.

Case II.—Miss Hooper, a young lady about twelve years of age, was dreadfully burnt on the neck and back, from her clothes taking fire: the injury was so severe that, for the week after the accident, her death was expected; but the constitution was supported by stimulants and opium, and at length a slough, of a most frightful extent, was thrown off. For some time, calamine cerate, and an ointment prepared from oxyde of lead, were used to dress the wound; but the discharge became so considerable, the granulation so redundant, and the case attended with so much constitutional disorder, that we again had reason to fear a fatal determination. Under these unfavorable circumstances, I had recourse to the use of the liquor plumbi, with which the edges of the sores were daily smeared, and wheaten flour sprinkled on the granulations, so as to encourage the formation of a scab. This plan was persevered in for a few weeks, the scab being occasionally broken down, and a new one formed in the same manner; the health soon improved; and the sore healed in half the time that I have seen required to accomplish the same object under the ordinary method of treatment.

Case III.—J. Ashby, a boy about fourteen years of age, had his side severely burnt from a squib taking fire in his pocket: the heat was so intense, and so long applied, that there was considerable sloughing. After this had taken place, I had recourse to the liquor plumbi and flour; and the progress of the cure was so rapid, that both myself and patient's friends were perfectly satisfied with the superior efficacy of the plan of treatment.

I would add one remark on the treatment of scalds of the extremities, such as I have often witnessed on the feet and ankles of cooks and housemaids. When blistering has taken place, much relief is found from puncturing the bladders, and binding the limb evenly, and rather firmly, with strips of linen spread with emplasterum plumbi, on the plan recommended by Baynton for the cure of ulcerated legs. I have observed that the dressings do not require to be removed daily,—once in two days has answered with me; and, if the parts have become painful, cloths wet with cold water have been from time to time employed with advantage, wrapped round the limb.—*Ib.*

From, July, 1825.

The power of the Muscles.

One of the most wonderful properties of the muscles is the extraordinary force they exert, though they are composed of such slender threads and fibres. The following facts in relation to this point, are demonstrated by the celebrated Boreli, in his *De Motu Animalium*. When a man lifts with his teeth, a weight of two hundred pounds, with a rope fastened to the jaw teeth, the muscles named Temporalis and Masseter with which people chew, and which perform this work, exert a force of above fifty thousand pounds weight. If any one hanging his arm directly downwards lifts a weight of twenty pounds with the third or last joint of his thumb, the muscles which bend the thumb, and raise that weight exert a force of about three thousand pounds. When a man, standing on his feet, leaps or springs forward to the height of two feet, if the weight of such a man be one hundred and fifty pounds, the muscles employed in this action will exert a force two thousand times greater; that is to say, a force of about three hundred thousand pounds. The heart, at each pulsation or contraction, by which it protrudes the blood out of the arteries into the veins, exerts a force of above a hundred thousand pounds. —*Dick's Chris. Phil.*

From the Medical Intelligencer.

CROTON OIL.

Mr. Editor—This article seems of late, to be much talked of, and frequently prescribed, by many of the profession; and as I have good reason to believe, often in most unwarrantable quantities, and without any rational intention, or just views of its properties or effects. There seems, indeed, to be something of magic in its very name—which, to certain physicians, has a very imposing sound.

I have no doubt, that it may be, in some instances, a valuable remedy; but for one, I should like to learn something more of its medicinal properties, and of its particular application to the removal of disease. I therefore, would beg leave to offer the following queries:

1st. In what particular cases and states of disease is it indicated?

2d. What is the largest dose that may be given with safety?

3rd. If a considerable dose be given, without any cathartic operation, what would probably be its effects?

4th. Should it be administered where there is evidence of inflammation in the alimentary canal?

S.

The above queries are important. The editor of the *Medical Intelligencer* has referred his readers to the account given of it by Dr. Bigelow, in his sequel to the U. S. Pharmacopœia, which can be referred to by *our* readers.

We will venture to answer, in part, the first *query*. Croton Oil is useful, according to our experience, in all cases of paralysis of the first bowels, or in other cases of obstinate constipation, where there is no inflammation of the mucous membrane, or the upper portion of the alimentary canal. We have also found it of considerable importance in *ascites* and *general anasarca*. We have used it with children, where there were great accumulations of mucous in the stomach and small intestines, as is often the case in this country, exhibiting symptoms similar to those produced by worms; even violent spasmodic fits are occasionally the effect of such accumulations. The croton oil has, in these cases, given in half drop doses, proved highly beneficial; the discharges exhibiting immense quantities of inspissated mucous, to the great relief of the child. It may be useful in many other cases, but our experience goes no further.

To the second question we would say, that two drops of croton oil is a full dose in some cases, but above that, at one time, we believe hazardous; it may be repeated, however, in two hours. We have known as many as *fifteen* drops given at one time, in this city, but, as might be expected, the patient—*died*. We speak from experience; others have given more, as reported in a former number of the *Medical Intelligencer:* but we must suspect, in that case, the genuineness of the oil, for it is very liable to deterioration by long keeping. As to the third interrogation, I have not experience enough to decide, though I have never seen any sensible effect, save that of its hydragogue and cathartic effects.

To the fourth I can say but little; but should conclude, *a priori*, that it never should be given where there was much increased morbid sensibility of the stomach and bowels. In the first place I should consider it too great an excitant; and in the second, that there was no necessity for employing such a remedy, when the bowels were susceptible to the impress of the mildest aperients. [Ed.

Secale Cornutum.—Mr. Charles Waller has lately published (London Medical and Physical Journal, April 1826,) several cases illustrative of the action and efficacy of Secale Cornutum. We have not room for any of the cases, and content ourselves with transcribing Mr. W's inferences. These are: "that the secale cornutum is a remedy which is capable of increasing the force of the uterine contractions in a most remarkable manner, under certain circumstances; but that the effect is doubtful, unless there be some degree of action present. In other words, that, although it will increase the contractions when already present, it will not always renew them when they are suspended.

"That the effect is more certain if the infusion be of greater strength than is usually recommended; two drachms of the secale to six ounces of water being barely sufficient for the purpose.

"That it appears to be a stimulus peculiarly fitted for irritable, and what are generally termed *nervous* habits.

"That the fears entertained by some practitioners of its proving detrimental to the child, are groundless.

"But although it is in general necessary, not only that there should be a disposition for labor, but that this process should have actually commenced, before we can expect the secale cornutum to have any effect upon the uterus, still one solitary case has indirectly come to my knowledge (and I will vouch for the authenticity of it,) where this remedy was given for the purpose of procuring abortion in a female, about the second month of utero-gestation; and this effect was accomplished in a few hours after its exhibition"—*Med. & Surg. Jour.*

To dissolve India Rubber.—A friend in Charlestown informs us, that by keeping India rubber in warm neat's foot oil for two or three days, it will be completely dissolved. A composition of India rubber and neat's foot oil would probably render boots impervious to water,—a desideratum this wet weather.—*N. E. Farmer.*

Light has no influence in generating acetous acid, and Pope, as usual, spoke more like a poet than a chymist, when he exclaimed,

"Like heaven's blest beams, makes vinegar more sour;"

it is effected by temperature alone.

A negociation is pending between the Medical Societies of Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, and the Berkshire Medical Institution, on the subject of forming a uniform scale of qualifications for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, and for improving medical education generally. New York has appointed Dr. Windell as a delegate, to meet the delegates from other states at Northampton, Massachusetts, in general convention. The plan is worthy of imitation.

The most proper periods for indulgence in fruit, appear to be the morn.. ; and evening. On some occasions it may be taken with advantage at breakfast, or three hours before dinner; it affords a light and agreeable repast if taken an hour before bed time; but these regulations are to be influenced by circumstances, which no general rule can possibly embrace. *Paris on Diet.*

A New Medical School. We learn that a medical academy has recently been established at Litchfield, Conn. under the direction of A. Abbey, M. D.

DR. JAMES M. MASON respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens generally. His office is on Fourth street, near to Sycamore, and his dwelling is on Sycamore street, a few doors below Fourth, where any calls will be promptly attended to.

PROSPECTUS

OF THE

WESTERN MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL JOURNAL,

ORIGINAL AND ECLECTIC;

EDITED BY

DANIEL DRAKE, M. D. *late Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, in Transylvania University;*

AND

GUY W. WRIGHT, M. D.

IN the Eastern States, there are several highly respectable MEDICAL JOURNALS, while the Western have not one. It is the design of the Editors to supply this *desideratum*. How far they may succeed, is not for them to predict; as their fitness to conduct such a publication, and to what degree it will be sustained by the writers and readers of the West, can only be known by experiment. That time will be necessary to bring it into public favour, they are fully sensible: they commence it, therefore, in a spirit of perseverance, and without the cheering hope of early or brilliant success.

Its plan embraces both original and selected matter. For the former, they must rely chiefly upon the numerous intelligent Physicians and Surgeons, who are scattered over the States of the Mississippi; between whom the JOURNAL may promote much useful communication—while it serves the whole as a channel, through which their discoveries may reach our elder brethren of the East. To effectuate these interesting objects, it is only necessary that those who have original matter to communicate, should consent to publish it in the interior, where they live and to which it relates, instead of sending it to the periodical presses of the sea board. A concentrated effort must speedily raise a Western Journal to the distinction claimed for works of a similar kind, in other and older portions of the United States.

The eclectic department will contain such essays, reviews, and digests of intelligence from other Journals and the various new publications of the day, both in America and Europe, as will apprise the reader of all important discoveries and improvements that may be made; for which purpose a *monthly* will be found preferable to a *quarterly* publication, as giving earlier information.

The natural history of the Mississippi states is a subject of interest, both in a professional and a national point of view; and as there is not in this region, any MAGAZINE devoted to the Physical Sciences, the Editors will be gratified to receive, and (when matters strictly professional are not on hand) make public all kinds of original facts and observations on the Climate, Mineralogy, Botany and Zoology of the States which lie between the Lakes and the Gulph of Mexico.

The Editors will only add, that they shall be happy to make their Journal a vehicle of publication, for the original experiments and useful improvements which may from time to time be made, either by professors or graduates, in the Medical schools of the West. They will also, with pleasure, if requested, insert annual notices of Lectures, both in these institutions and those of the whole United States.

Terms of Publication.

The WESTERN MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL JOURNAL will be published monthly, commencing in April, 1827.

Each number will be stitched in a printed cover, and will contain from 56 to 64 octavo pages—making, annually, a volume of about 750 pages.

It will be printed on fine medium paper, with new type, and transmitted to subscribers by mail, unless otherwise instructed.

The price of subscription, per annum, will be *Four dollars*, payable in advance.

☞ It is particularly requested that the names of subscribers may be transmitted, as early as possible, to *N. & G.* GUILFORD, No. 14, Lower Market street, Cincinnati, where the work will be published.

BOTANY.

DR. LOCKE'S Lectures (to Ladies and Gentlemen) on Botany, will commence on Monday the 9th of April, at five o'clock in the afternoon, in the hall of the Cincinnati Female Academy. They will be continued every Monday and Saturday afternoon, at the same hour, for three months. Every gentleman who takes a ticket will be permitted to introduce a lady.

March 23, 1827.

We are gratified to learn, from the above notice, that Dr. Locke has consented to deliver a course of Botanical lectures this season. The great variety of vegetables to be found in this country, together with the universal importance of the science, in all civilized societies, renders a knowledge of botany truly desirable and important. To the physician, it is indispensible, and we presume it unnecessary to say more on the subject to the medical gentlemen of the city, than barely to inform them, that there will now be an opportunity of studying the science; and have no doubt but that the lectures will be well supported. [ED.

MEDICAL TUITION.

TO Young Gentlemen, who are desirous of prosecuting the study of Medicine, the following facilities are offered:—A well furnished Medical Library of the best modern works, with access to a miscellaneous Library of several hundred volumes: an examination twice a week on the Medical books read, accompanied with such comments as may elucidate the author's meaning. Anatomy to be studied in the Summer by Plates and Skeletons: in the Winter, to be prosecuted on the recent subject, and liberty of attending the clinical teachings in the Louisville Hospital. The price of tuition, per annum, will be fifty dollars—for the Summer, twenty-five dollars.

A course of Clinical Lectures will be commenced about the middle of next March, in the Hospital. This course will comprise a concise discussion of the general pathology, etiology, and symptomatology of disease, with a particular analysis of our prevalent summer and autumnal complaints, and an appeal for illustration to the cases in the Hospital, and to post mortem inquest.

This period of time is selected, because about that period patients are brought into the Institution, affected with the diseases incidental to the lower country. There will be about thirty-two Lectures delivered, of the regular series, on Wednesday and Saturday of each week, and on the intermediate days, (Sundays excepted,) explanatory remarks on the clinical cases in the Institution will be made.

Price of Tickets, Five Dollars.

JOHN P. HARRISON, M. D.

Louisville, (Ky.) Jan. 29, 1827.

DR. WRIGHT has removed his office to the rooms directly over the APOTHECARIES' HALL, corner of Main and Third streets. Persons having business with him relative to this *Journal*, or those wishing his professional services, will find him at the above place.

THE OHIO MEDICAL REPOSITORY

Is conducted by GUY W. WRIGHT, M. D. and published semi-monthly, at *Two Dollars* per annum, in advance.